



BEFORE OPENING YOUR DOOR

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Bloomington City Code requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. In addition, solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted “No Solicitation” or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics.

Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper organization identification.

For more information on solicitors, call Licensing at 952-563-8728.

BE WARY OF SOLICITORS

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

UNSOLICITED CALLS FROM WATER FILTER VENDORS

In recent months, some residents have reported receiving phone calls from a water filtration vendor claiming that Bloomington water is “bad.” However, Bloomington’s water surpasses all federal and state standards and is tested frequently to ensure its safety, making home filtration systems unnecessary.

“Our water is very high quality and exceeds all standards,” Utilities Superintendent Bob Cockriel said. “However, if a resident has a concern, we will test their home’s water.”

According to Cockriel, the City’s Water Treatment Plant routinely conducts 45,000 tests per year on the City’s water – that’s a test every 10 to 12 minutes. Residents deciding to purchase a filtration system for aesthetic or medical reasons should look for filters that have been certified by NSF International (an independent testing group) or Underwriters Laboratory, and they should carefully follow the manufacturer’s maintenance instructions. When not properly maintained and serviced, filtration systems can harbor disease-causing bacteria that are not otherwise in the City’s water supply.

Watch for the City’s annual *Water Quality Report* in the June *Briefing*. For more information on City water, call the Water Treatment Plant at 952-563-4905.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: WATER FAQs.

ALWAYS FRIENDLY, RELIABLE SERVICE STOP BY YOUR LOCAL DEPUTY REGISTRAR OFFICE



Visit Bloomington’s Deputy Registrar Office, 9930 Logan Avenue South, to renew license tabs; transfer vehicle titles; register boats, snowmobiles and ATVs; and more.

The office has served Bloomington and beyond since 1971 with friendly service and reasonable wait times resulting in many satisfied customers. And remember, by purchasing your registration at your local motor vehicle office, a portion of the filing fee stays in the community and supports the City’s ability to continue offering these services locally.

Hours are Mondays, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Tuesday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8719 or visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MOTOR VEHICLE.

USE A LICENSED TAXICAB LOOK FOR ID STICKERS

To protect the safety of travelers, taxicab companies and their individual drivers picking up passengers in Bloomington must be licensed with the City. This ensures that drivers have completed background checks and been issued picture identifications.

Be sure to look for City-issued identification and inspection stickers before getting in a taxicab.

Taxicabs must also meet certain safety criteria. Licensing staff will only issue inspection stickers to taxicab drivers whose vehicles have passed a mechanical inspection. Picture identification and inspection stickers must be displayed at all times.

For a list of licensed taxicab companies, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: TAXICAB.

LOOKING GOOD

A CLEAN SWEEP PROTECTING OUR WATER BODIES

Spring is the time for rebirth and renewal. While residents are cleaning out their homes and garages in anticipation of the Curbside Cleanup, see page 4, Bloomington Street Maintenance is preparing to clean City streets through its semiannual street sweeping.

Street Maintenance crews have their work down to an art form. They begin by organizing the city into 10 zones. According to Street Maintenance Supervisor Ken Frosig, the zones that are designated priorities are those closest to lakes, ponds and streams.

“We want to prevent debris and runoff from infiltrating our water, so we focus on those streets closest to lakes and ponds first,” Frosig said.

Sweeper and flush trucks work together to tackle dust and debris leftover from the long winter. The flush truck leads the brigade. It sprays a light mist of water over the street to control dust. Then the mechanical sweepers

come through and collect sand and other debris from curbs and gutters. Last but not least, comes the newest member of City’s fleet – the regenerative air sweeper.

This eco-friendly sweeper removes fine sand and silt with greater ease than mechanical sweepers by using a controlled blast of air to dislodge tiny particles from the street’s surface.

“All debris is directed up a heavy-duty suction hose to a collection bin,” Frosig said. “This sweeper doesn’t exhaust polluted air into the atmosphere like a mechanical sweeper.”

The spring sweeping program begins at the beginning of April and runs five to seven weeks until all City streets are swept clean. The street



sweeping program is part of the City’s Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program. Street sweeping not only beautifies the city; it prevents debris from entering the City’s stormwater system and polluting nearby water bodies. For more information, contact Public Works at 952-563-8767.

To see when your street will be swept, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: STREET SWEEPING.

UP TO CODE

ENSURING SAFE, DESIRABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Concerned residents can keep neighborhoods looking good by notifying Environmental Health if a neighborhood property is not maintained. City standards describe how owners must maintain buildings and grounds on their property. The following City ordinances define how properties must be maintained:

- Grass and weeds must be cut before they reach one foot high.
- Waste, debris and refuse must be kept in an enclosed building or a closed container stored in a garage or no more than five feet in front of a house/garage.
- Vehicles must be parked in a garage or on an approved driveway.



In certain circumstances, RVs may be stored in the back or side yard. For more on RV storage, visit the City’s website.

- Number of vehicles owned by the residents and parked outside the garage or on the street may not exceed four. This does not include vehicles belonging to visitors.

- Nonresidential vehicles and vehicles longer than 22 feet or higher than seven feet and six inches may not park in residential areas.
- Materials, machinery and equipment must be stored in a building or be fully screened from view.
- Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in a garage.

- All dogs and cats must be licensed annually with the City and display their tags at all times. Rabies vaccination certificates for dogs and cats are required.

- Dog enclosures must be screened from view of adjacent properties and be set back 10 feet from lot lines and 50 feet from adjacent homes.

To report a nuisance or ordinance violation, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934. If you have a pet complaint, call Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.